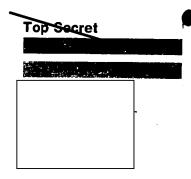


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Contents	
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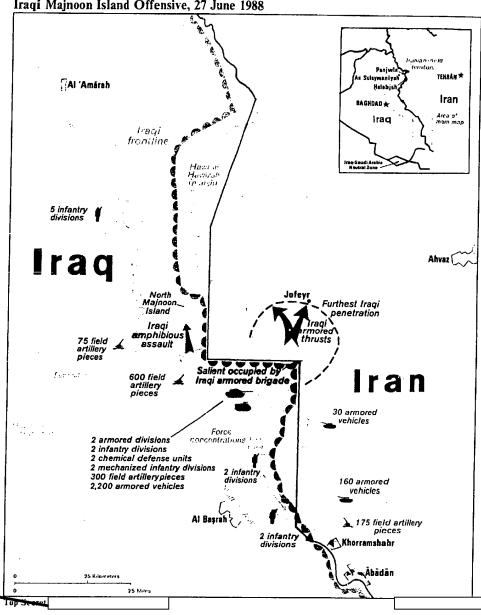
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Iraqi Majnoon Island Offensive, 27 June 1988



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IRAN-IRAQ: Baghdad Consolidates Gains

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Major elements of an Iraqi armored brigade continued to occupy a small salient in Iranian territory opposite the "step" area yesterday, and Iraqi forces on North Majnoon Island were being reinforced, Iraq continues to claim that its forces reoccupied areas north of the Majnoon Islands, but there is no evidence to confirm those claims at least 2,000 Iranian troops were captured in the fighting over the weekend. Iraqi artillery units that supported the Majnoon offensive will be shifted to the As Sulaymaniyah area in northeastern Iraq.
Comment: Although the extent of Iraqi gains in the marshes north of the Majnoon Islands remains unclear, Iraqi forces undoubtedly have occupied some former Iranian positions. The 2,000 Iranians captured will bring the total number of Iranian POWs to about 30,000, still far fewer than Iran's 75,000 Iraqi POWs. The movement of artillery to the northern front indicates that Baghdad may be preparing to retake Iranian-held enclaves in the Halabjah-Panjwin areas of northeastern iraq.

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